



# The Lincoln eLetter

## Blanche Lincoln – U.S. Senator for Arkansas

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### Amendments Would Improve Benefits, Readiness for National Guard and Reserve

Throughout my career in the United States Senate, I have fought to ensure our nation's military service members, veterans, and their families receive the benefits and care they have earned and certainly deserve.

This week, [I introduced five amendments to the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act](#) legislation currently pending before the United States Senate that authorizes military spending and priorities. I spoke [on the floor of the U.S. Senate](#) earlier today to encourage my colleagues to support these amendments.

These five proposals not only help us keep our promise to these brave men and women and their families, they also serve to strengthen recruitment and retention and increase the readiness of our reserve forces.

The five amendments to the annual defense authorization bill would:

- Make **health care for Guardsmen and Reservists more accessible** so that they can maintain necessary medical readiness to fulfill their missions;
- Ensure that future **GI Bill benefits for National Guard and Reserve members keep pace** with the national average cost of tuition;
- **Lower the travel reimbursement threshold** to 50 miles (from 100 miles) for National Guard and Reserve members traveling for drill;
- Enable the **National Guard Youth Challenge program to expand** to new sites and make a difference in the lives of more young people across the nation; and
- Grant **full veteran status to members of the reserve components** who have 20 or more years of service and do not otherwise qualify under law.

With Arkansas Pride,



[Watch my speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate.](#)



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